
Carolina Country
July 1979
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FOR ALL NORTH CAROLINA RURAL ELECTRIC MEMBERS

"CO-OP" QUIZ

1. **HOW** much does the average hospital room cost per day, according to the American Hospital Association?
2. **HOW** many people will have to go to the hospital this year, according to the American Hospital Association?
3. **WHO** was the **first** to bring high quality/low cost **group** hospitalization protection to rural electric members?
4. **WHEN** did the **Co-op Insurance Fund** first create the widely accepted, highly recommended **Extra Hospital Money Plan?**
5. **WHO** are the people whose pictures and comments appear below?

*Check your answers below.



*"I received a check from Co-op for $1150 for my 23 days in the hospital. The promptness and courtesy meant **everything!**"*



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"I feel real lucky to have this policy—with God's help and Co-op Insurance I realize I've made it."

***ANSWERS**

1. **$183** per day! If you had to go to the hospital, could you afford it? **2. 34,171,063!** It could happen **tomorrow** to **you** or **someone you love. 3. CO-OP INSURANCE FUND! 4. 1969.** "**Co-op**" is the **only** hospital plan offered and recommended by rural electric cooperatives to their members **continuously** for the past **ten years! 5.** Just a few of our satisfied members: Leon Waggaman — Indiana, Lorain McKenney — Colorado, Thelma Odom — Georgia.

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Sixth Floor, 1447 Peachtree St., N.E., Atlanta, GA 30309

Please Print Name _____

Street Address (or RFD) _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

List ages of those you want information for NC-7 ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Children

Age _____ Age _____ Ages _____

O Insurance Company, *"Guarantee Trust Life Insurance Company"* is dependent and not affiliated with Rural Electric Cooperatives in th state. It is licensed in this state.

Tar Heel Spirit At Work

Tapping Our Own Backyards For Energy

Fifth District Rep. Steve Neal gave North Carolinians a hardy pat on the back recently, saying they're not content to "wring their hands" over the energy crisis and are "doing something constructive" about it.

The Forsyth County Democrat, who is actively supporting various measures to promote development of alternate energy resources, said Tar Heels share his concern, as evidenced by three recent developments which have "tremendous potential":

• Reports that a "solarized" office building in Winston-Salem, designed by architect J. Aubrey Kirby for his architectural firm, had reduced the structure's energy costs by almost 50 percent.

• Development in the Chatham county community of Goldston of a wood-fuel for industrial use. The pelletized fuel uses sawdust, fallen limbs and branches, and wood scraps. Neal said it is estimated that North Carolina alone could produce 100 million tons of such fuel annually—almost the equivalent of the state's total energy needs.

• Plans by N.C. Electric Membership Corporation for building the nation's first peat-fired generating plant in the Northeastern corner of the state. Neal is author of a bill which seeks authorization for federal funding to help finance the experimental project.

"These developments represent the very best in energy development," the congressman said, adding: "They would conserve scarce oil and natural gas; they provide a clean, safe source of energy; they do not use up non-renewable sources, except peat and they would create entirely new industries and jobs, profits and investment opportunities which go with them."

He pointed out that other states have more peat deposits than does North Carolina, but this state claims enough to generate all its own electricity, at current level of use, for 25 years.

"Nationwide, peat is our second most plentiful fossil fuel, outranked only by coal. Just think of what a contribution North Carolina would be making to the future of what otherwise might be an energy-starved nation."

Viewpoint

Neal is certainly right on target when he tosses these verbal bouquets to energy-conscious North Carolinians—and he didn't even mention some other major developments on the Tar Heel scene which would tap unused resources, including three involving local EMCs:

• Plans by French Broad EMC, Marshall, to build a 15,000-kilowatt wood-burning power plant in the Madison County area, if a preliminary study proves the project to be feasible. The plant would burn the same kind of wood fuel that Rep. Neal mentioned.

• The experimental wind-powered generator now about to go into operation atop Howard's Knob at Boone, under the auspices of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. It will provide some electric power for consumer-members of Blue Ridge EMC, Lenoi as well as performance data that'll b useful in furthering the developmer of windpowered generation to pr duct electricity.

• French Broad EMC, Marshall an Blue Ridge EMC, along with Randolp EMC, Asheboro, are also interested developing small hydroelectric pr jects in their service areas—if the prove feasible.

French Broad is interested i reviving an abandoned dam which already under study by the Tennesse Valley Authority. Blue Ridge, i cooperation with the Sierra Club Blu Ridge Group and Appalachain Stat University, is seeking a federal gra for studies of the hydro potential of streams in that region. And Randolp is preparing to bid for federal funds f a feasibility study of reviving old hydr facilities that once served a Moor County cotton mill.

As gasoline shortages spread acro the country and OPEC flexes i powerful muscles, sending omino ripples through all the world developed nations, it is reassuring th North Carolinians are not mere wringing their hands on the sideline

Indeed, they're characteristicall flexing their own work-hardene muscles and taking steps to make us of the valuable energy resource available right in their own backyard

And, it is not surprising that th take-the-bull-by-the-horns spirit is s evident among the state's EMCs for was just such spirit that inspired th formation of the co-ops 40 yea ago—when rural Tar Heels faced th crisis involving a far different kind energy shortage.□

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Special Announcement

to all North Carolina Rural Electric consumer members and their families

Now... North Carolina RE Consumer Members of all ages qualify—**you cannot be turned down** for this RE Group Hospitalization Supplement. This is the only direct-to-you Group Plan officially recommended and endorsed by your National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

We're Concerned

Over the last few years, the cost of medical care has almost doubled according to American Hospital Association's reports. As a matter of fact, the average per patient cost to a community hospital is now more than $180 A DAY! Most group and individual hospitalization plans are not designed to cover the full hospital bill... even Medicare recently announced another increase in the amount of its deductible... the amount Medicare patients must pay out of their own pocket.

The Largest Cause of Personal Bankruptcy

Vice President Mondale has stated that hospital bills "are the single largest cause of personal bankruptcy in the United States." When you consider what a single day in the hospital costs, it's easy to see why.

For RE Consumer Members Only

Problems like these caused your National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) to arrange its own insurance programs for rural electric cooperative employees and members (ELCO® Programs). First your National Rural Electric Cooperative Association set out to find a national insurance company with an impeccable reputation. Next, they arranged a supplemental hospitalization plan that would do the best job possible for all RE consumer members and their families. And finally, NRECA set up their own service center for ELCO® Programs to help assure RE consumer members prompt, courteous service and prompt claims payment. This RE Group Hospitalization Supplement, underwritten by the highly respected Continental American Life Insurance Company, is the result.

Don't Be Misled by Look-Alikes

Some insurance ads try to give you the impression they are official RE plans, sponsored by your National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Only those programs that bear the ELCO® or RE® trademarks are officially endorsed by your National Association. These trademarks are your guarantee of service and quality.

You Cannot Be Turned Down

This RE group plan is available to RE members in most states. Every member who enrolls will be accepted regardless of age or occupation. However, Continental American must limit coverage in force under all policies of this type with their company to one per member.

Your Own RE Consumer Service Center

Your National Association's Service Center for ELCO® Programs will provide RE consumers with the best possible service. If you have questions about your protection benefits available, or changes to your plan, just call the NRECA Service Center. The special RE consumer telephone number is (919) 832-7597... call COLLECT any weekday and ask for Bill Plunket. He'll be glad to help you.

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To get your free Group Hospitalization Planning Kit, just fill out the coupon on this page and drop it in the mail. The Kit will be mailed to you and will fully explain what is covered, what is not covered, costs and terms of renewability. There is no obligation and no one will call on you. So please act now.

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Charles Wilson Named N.C. REA Administrator

Charles F. Wilson of Red Springs has been named adminstrator of the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority—the state agency which monitors the operations of rural electric and telephone cooperatives and assists them in obtaining federal loans and grants.



Wilson, a South Carolina native, has been manager of administrative services for Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation since 1977. He joined the EMC in 1972 as manager of offices services.

The University of South Carolina graduate is president of the Red Springs Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and a member of the Red Springs Rotary Club.

Wilson succeeds Al Mendaloff of Statesville, who resigned for health reasons. He was appointed by Gov. Jim Hunt.

Council To Advise Extension Service

A statewide citizens advisory group has been organized to help guide the programs of the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service.

Dr. T. C. Blalock, state extension director, appointed the group after it was authorized by the Advisory Budget Commission. The 10-member group will be know as the N.C. Extension Advisory council.

Council members have elected as their first chairman L. F. (Bud) Amburn Jr., publisher of the *Chowan Herald* in Edenton. Elected vice chairman was Sue Murdock of Cherryville.

"Extension has always tried to keep its programs close to the people," Dr. Blalock said. "We are establishing a citizens advisory council in all counties, and this council is an outgrowth of these local councils. The council can help us to identify emerging needs and advise us on the establishment of priorities."

The council has a representative from each of extension's seven administrative districts, plus three at-large members.

Members in addition to Amburn and Mrs. Murdock, are Pink Francis, Waynesville; Frank Boyette, Red Springs; W. S. Creecy, Rich Square; Kenneth Jones, Pink Hill, Rt. 1; Mrs Frostina Smith, Greensboro; Mrs. Mack R. Hudson, Benson, Rt. 1; Mrs Johnsie Setzer, Claremont, Rt. 2 and John Jenkins, Lexington.

Jenkins is a member services director of Davidson EMC, Lexington.

Blind Tar Heel Poet Is 'Knight of Mark Twain'

Poet Lew Barton of Pembroke, a blind Lumbee Indian, has been elected a Knight of Mark Twain. The award, which was established in 1936, was sent to Barton by Cyril Clemmons, a nephew of the American writer. It cited Barton's "outstanding contribution to American poetry."

The 61-year-old Barton, who lost his vision in 1950, went to school under the sponsorship of the N.C. Commission for the Blind. He has a B.A. in English from Pembroke State University and an M.A. from UNC-CH.

Other recipients of the award include John F. Kennedy, Carl Sandburg and Robert Frost.

Cover Photo From New James Valentine Book

Professional photographer James P. Valentine of Highlands describes our cover in these words:

"The silent rhythm of mist and hay-scented fern envelope a lacy red spruce. Image near Big Laurel Gap on Blue Ridge Parkway."

The photo will be included in a book of Valentines's work titled *North Carolina*, which is to be published this fall by The Graphics Arts Center/Charles Belding of Portland, Ore. Valentine's photography was featured in two earlier exhibit-format books titled, *Guale, The Golden Coast of Georgia* and *Georgia*.

His conservation-oriented prints have been exhibited by the National Park Service, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and a New York photography art gallery.

The cover photo appeared in a collection of works from the new book which was included in the Winter, 1979, edition of *Southern Accents*. Our thanks to the publisher of that magazine for allowing us to use their color separations for our cover.

Ad Art From Tennessee

We also owe a word of credit for the four-color illustration in the EMC ad on our back cover. The art was prepared by the Tennessee Energy Authority as part of an energy conservation program. The color separations are on loan from our counterpart publication in the Volunteer State, *Tennessee Magazine*. We're grateful to its editor, John Stanford, for his cooperation.

NCSU Names Bateman To Direct Research

Dr. Durward F. Bateman, chairman of the Department of Plant Pathology at Cornell University, has been selected to succeed Dr. Kenneth R. Keller as director of the North Carolina Agricultural Research Service and associate dean of the School of Agriculture and Life Sciences at N.C. State University.

Keller retired June 30 after 22 as a research administrator at NCSU.

/Here/There/

Bateman, 45, grew up on a farm
ear Tyner in Chowan County and
eceived his B.S. degree with honors
botany from NCSU in 1956. His
.S. and Ph.D., both in plant
athology, are from Cornell, where
has been on the faculty since
960.

Dr. and Mrs. Bateman, the former
irley Byrum, have three daughters.

Directors Re-elected At EMC Annual Meetings

Members of two Electric
embership Corporations re-elected
cumbent directors during annual
eetings in June.

• At Blue Ridge EMC, Lenoir, four
cumbents were re-elected. They
re Oren Teague of Rt. 1, Granite
lls; Bill Brown of Rt. 1, Boone;
chard L. Shepherd of Rt. 2, Lansing
d Charity Gambill of Sparta.

• At Piedmont EMC, Hillsborough,
ree incumbents were re-elected.
ey were Richard C. Roberts of Rt. 1,
llsborough; W. F. Shaw of Rt. 2, Elon
llege and Clyde T. Satterfield of
nberlake.

ew Timberlake Art Book o Be Published In Fall

exington artist Bob Timberlake is
v completing work on 87
tercolor and tempera paintings to
ear in *The World of Bob
berlake*, which will be published in
tember by Oxmoor House, the
k division of *Southern Living*.

he volume, which will be marketed
onally, is intended to capture in
color the natural beauties of the
th's landscapes, seascapes and still
scenes, according to *Southern*
g officials.

mberlake, who is the official artist
Keep America Beautiful, was the
recipient of the N.C. Public
ice Award earlier this year.

eenlee Re-Elected To ad Nationwide's Board

William G. Greenlee of Rt. 3, Marion
been re-elected chairman of the
board of the Nationwide General Insurance Co., a special-marketing automobile insurer.

Greenlee has been board chairman for the past six years and has been a director of the four Nationwide Insurance Companies since 1971. He also serves on the board of six of Nationwide's affiliated companies.

He breeds purebred Aberdeen Angus cattle on a 300-acre farm and serves as vice president-treasurer of Greenlee Lime & Stone Inc. in Marion.

Editor Gets Awards In CEA Competition

For the second consecutive year, *Carolina Country* Editor Owen Bishop has won honors in a national communications contest sponsored by the Cooperative Editorial Association.

He picked up second-place awards in two categories: news stories and features. The winning news story was a news release issued last May regarding the EMC's plans for acquiring portions of Virginia Electric and Power Co. generating plants. The winning feature was a profile of Will F. Shaw, a veteran director of Piedmont EMC, which appeared in the May, 1978, *Carolina Country*.

A year ago, Bishop won a merit award in the CEA contest for a magazine story.

Lumbee Indian is 1979's Small Businessman of Year

A 32-year-old Lumbee Indian has been named North Carolina's Small Businessman of the Year.

Dennis D. Lowery, founder and president of Industrial Chemicals of Charlotte, received the award from Gov. Jim Hunt at a recent small business workshop at N.C. State University. He was also honored with other state winners at a White House ceremony the next day.

Lowery borrowed $130,000 from the Small Business Administration four years ago to start his firm. Providing liquid and dry chemicals to manufacturers, he posted $800,000 in sales his first year. This year, he is projecting sales of $4.4 million.

Southern Accents



SOUTHERN INTERIORS AND GARDENS

SOUTHERN ACCENTS is a quarterly magazine that presents photographic essays on tasteful Southern interiors, gardens, historic restorations, art and collections.

Printed in full color on enameled paper with a heavy, varnished cover, each edition is intended to be retained indefinitely. Many readers consider the magazine a collectible. Volume One, Number One, has become *just* that, and is rumored to have sold for as high as $500 (this *is* rumor, and nothing more).

The subscription price is $10 a year, or $25 for three years. These rates will increase to $12 and $30 on September 1, 1979, so a three-year subscription entered now is a prudent hedge against inflation.

Treat yourself to an interlude of elegance and beauty in this otherwise hectic life by using the coupon below to become a subscriber. You'll be most welcome to our select coterie of readers!

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____ CC
Your money will be refunded if you are not pleased

N.C. EMC's officers sign contracts in which 25 of the state's EMCs pledge to purchase bulk power from N.C. EMC, the power supply arm of the statewide EMC organization. The officers are, left to right, L. P. (Bill) Beverage, vice president of N. C. EMC and manager of Four County EMC, Burgaw; Alvin Morton, president of N.C. EMC and manager of Jones-Onslow EMC, Jacksonville and Douglas P. Leary, secretary of N.C. EMC and manager of Wake EMC, Wake Forest.



EMC Power Supply Contracts Signed

A total of 25 rural electric cooperatives are now committed to become bulk power customers of North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, under the terms of contracts executed June 12 by N.C. EMC officials.

The move establishes N.C. EMC as the state's generation and transmission cooperative, which will provide for the power supply needs of Tar Heel EMCs. About 50 such cooperatives across the country now supply most of the bulk power requirements of the nation's electric co-ops.

Although N.C. EMC currently has no generating capacity, it is negotiating with two private power companies to purchase portions of their new and existing plants.

The contracts, which pledge each of the 25 EMCs to purchase bulk power from N.C. EMC for resale to their consumer-members over the next 48 years, are critical to the plans for acquiring generation capacity from Duke Power Co. and Virginia Electric and Power Co.

Clears Major Hurdle

"By taking this step, we've cleared a major hurdle in our efforts to provide a stable and secure power supply source for the roughly 400,000 homes and businesses which are served by the co-ops in this state," said James M. Hubbard, executive vice president of the statewide EMC organization.

N.C. EMC, the power supply arm of that organization, currently functions on behalf of all 28 of the state's EMCs in negotiations with the private power companies over rates and buy-in plans. It will continue to play that role for the 25 co-ops covered by the contract arrangements, which were endorsed earlier by each EMC's local board of directors.

In addition, N.C. EMC will assume legal responsibility for all existing power supply contracts between its member co-ops and the private power companies. As a result, the power companies will bill N.C. EMC for all bulk power purchased by its members and N.C. EMC will, in turn, bill the member systems.

EMCs Affected By Contracts

The 25 EMCs which have executed the power supply contracts with N.C. EMC are:

Albemarle EMC, Hertford; Blue Ridge EMC, Lenoir; Brunswick EMC, Shallotte; Cape Hatteras EMC, Buxton; Carteret-Craven EMC, Morehead City; Central EMC, Sanford; Crescent EMC, Statesville; Davidson EMC, Lexington; Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, Tarboro; Four County EMC, Burgaw; Halifax EMC, Enfield; Harkers Island EMC, Harkers Island; Haywood EMC, Waynesville; Jones-Onslow EMC, Jacksonville; Lumbee River EMC, Red Springs; Pee Dee EMC, Wadesboro; Piedmont EMC, Hillsborough; Pitt & Greene EMC, Farmville; Randolph EMC, Asheboro; Roanoke EMC, Rich Square; Rutherford EMC, Forest City; South River EMC, Dunn; Tri-County EMC, Goldsboro; Union EMC, Monroe; and Wake EMC, Wake Forest.

REA Approval Expected

The contracts will become binding once they are approved by the Rural Electrification Administration in Washington. Since the contracts were developed in cooperation with REA officials, the agency's approval is expected.

The boards of three EMCs have not yet made a commitment regarding the power supply contract. However, representatives of these three co-ops have been invited to continue to participate in board meetings and discussions as interested non-members.

"We're making every effort to keep the door open for these co-ops to join with us in this effort at a later date," said Morton. "We need them and they need us."□

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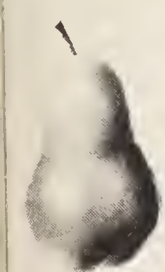
Grow full-sized, full flavored fruit on trees that grow only 8- to 10-feet high. Stark Bro's special dwarfing procedure affects only tree size. Fruit is as big — often bigger — than regular trees. Trees yield earlier, usually within just two years after planting.

"I'm enclosing pictures of a dwarf Starking Delicious Peach Tree we purchased in March of last year which bore 75 beautiful peaches this July. We now have a total of 32 dwarf apple, peach, cherry, pear, and apricot trees in our yard, and have just recently placed an additional order. With the past success we have had with your trees we are proud to say that they are "Stark Bro's Trees."

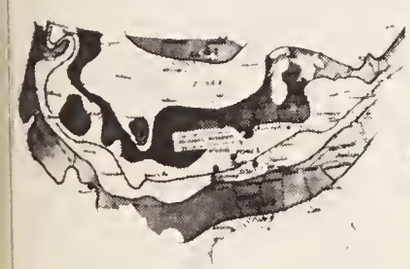
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Have 12 weeks of fresh fruit in a 10-ft. x 20-ft. area of your backyard- a space about the size of the average living room. Grow full-size apples, peaches, pears, nectarines in a "postage stamp" orchard of dwarf-size trees.





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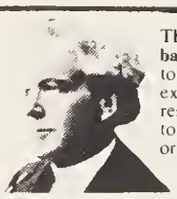
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Flynn H. Bach
Pryse, Kentucky



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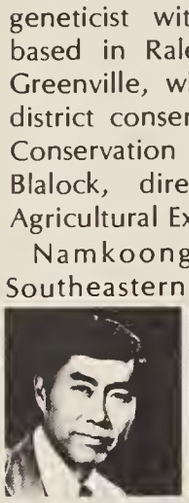
State _____ Zip _____

Service Awards Given

USDA Cites Four North Carolinians

Three North Carolina men have been cited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for outstanding contributions in their respective fields of endeavor.

They are Gene Namkoong, a geneticist with the Forest Service based in Raleigh; Roy R. Beck of Greenville, who recently retired as district conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service and Dr. T. C. Blalock, director of the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service.



Namkoong, who heads the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station Pioneering Unit for Population Genetics of Forest Trees, received the federal agency's highest citaton—the Distinguished Service Award.

He was one of seven employees receiving the honor, which was based on his "distinguished pioneering research extending worldwide scientific knowledge in the area of forest genetics."

He recently completed a one-year assignment as science advisor to Gov. Jim Hunt.

Active in community affairs, he was instrumental in initiating the Raleigh Inter-Church Housing Corporation, a non-profit model housing organization for low to moderate income families.



Beck, who received a Superior Service Award, was recognized for "exceptional leadership in providing community flood protection, promoting urban conservation, aiding agriculture and educating young people" in conservation.

He has spent his entire SCS career in North Carolina, beginning in 1946. He headed the SCS in Pitt County from 1961 until this year.

Among other accomplishments, he brought the Chicod Watershed Project to fruitation despite seven years of litigation.



Blalock also received a Superior Service Award, which cited his leadership in developing educational programs that "are helping farmers, foresters and other users of natural resources meet the environmental challenges posed by pesticides, animal wastes and sedimentation."

The 28-year veteran of extensi work was promoted from associa director of the statewide organizati last July 1.

In addition, a North Carolina nati who is with the Rural Electricati Administration in Washington al received a Superior Service Award.

He is John T. Barringer, a Salisbu native who serves as director of REA Office of Program Development a Analysis.

His award recognized his leadersh in developing an energy conservati program for the nation's electric c ops and their consumer-members.□

Grant Aids EMC's Study of Wood-Burning Generator

French Broad Electric Membership Corporation, Marshall, has received a $30,000 grant from the North Carolina Energy Institute as partial funding for a feasibility study that could lead to the construction of a 15,000-kilowatt wood-burning electric power plant.

Price Tag: $122,000

The $122,000 study, which is expected to take about five months, would establish financial and environmental requirements for the proposed facility and projected operating costs, according to Charles Tolley, the EMC's manager.

The study would also select the most desirable of 12 sites now under consideration.

The plant is envisioned as using about 150 tons of wood each year without harvesting trees. It would burn wastes such as chips, bark and sawdust purchased from sawmills in the area.

Tolley said the wood produc would be available at a cost belo that of coal.

"If we have plenty of fuel an can generate electricity with it, think we ought to use it," he sai

Four Such Plants in U.S.

There are four woodburnin power plants now in operatio across the country. One of them, 10,000-kilowatt plant in Burlin ton, Vt., has been converted fro coal to wood at a saving of two t three cents per kilowatt hour.

The French Broad plant cou supply 25 to 30 percent of the c op's electricity demands, Toll said, adding that two addition could be built in the future if th first one proves feasible.

The EMC serves about 19,00 consumer-members in Madiso Buncombe, Yancey and Mitche Counties in North Carolina and i Unicoi County, Tennessee.□



Nuclear Safety Problems Need Permanent Solutions

In reference to the "Commen-ary" by Mr. James Hubbard and he editorial in June's *Carolina Country*, I would like to point out hat avoiding the inherent dangers ssociated with nuclear energy will ot subject the United States to unger and a 40-year life xpectancy per person.

Even if choosing safe energy ources led to a lowered standard f living, which is untrue, I would ppreciate an opportunity to make hat decision as a member of merica's democratic citizenry ather than being tossed head over eels into an irreversible ependence on nuclear fission ower by the utility executives.

I believe that most Americans re sufficiently moral and courageous to assume a lower standard of living rather than subject our progeny to the dangers of nuclear wastes.

Finally, I would like to request a moratorium on nuclear energy production with an emphasis on soft, safe energy sources until the issues of 1) chronic and accidental releases of nuclear wastes from power plants and 2) disposal—not containment—of permanent radioactive wastes have been delt with adequately.

Leon Morrow
Rt. 6, Morganton

Let's Develop Solar, Not Nuclear Energy

I would like to express strong disagreement with both your editorial and story on nuclear power in the May, 1979, issue of *Carolina Country*.

In my opinion, you should devote equal space to an informed contrary opinion on a subject of this importance.

What you failed to point out is that a nuclear accident, however unlikely, has results which are irrevocable not only to those directly affected but to future generations.

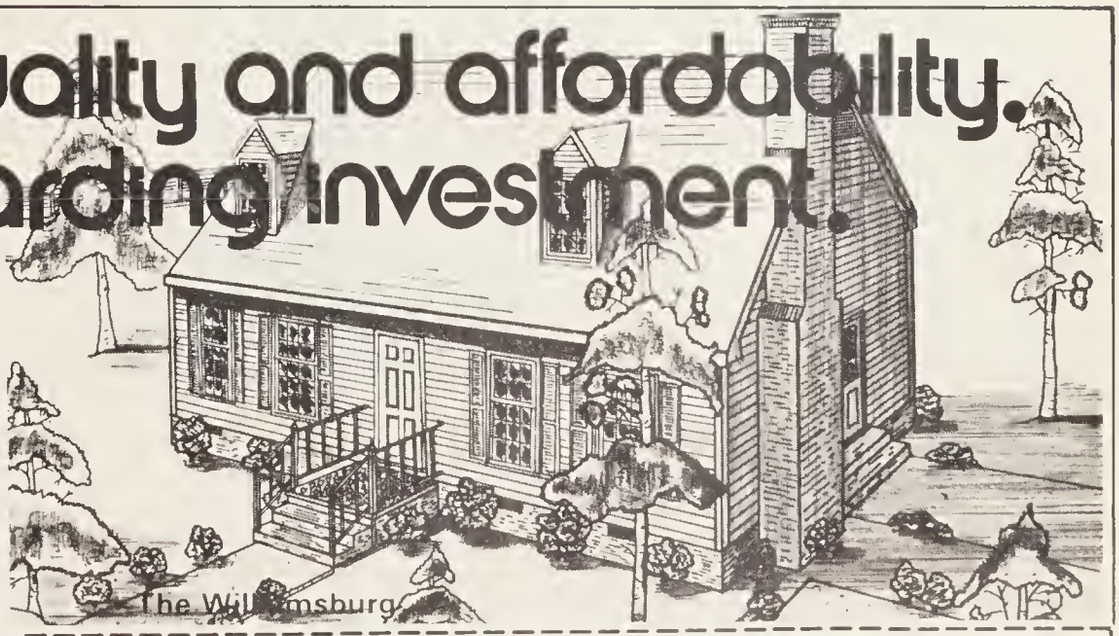
Why not concentrate all our efforts in developing technology for the use of solar energy which is not only safe but inexpensive?

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He Prevailed 'Against All Odds'

Some people call it "Fate." Others call it a "Lousy Break." Still others say it's the "Will of the Lord." Whatever it is that happens to people like Tom Helms, it becomes, on the bottom line, a make or break crisis.

Helms was zapped twice by Fate, the breaks, or the Will of the Almighty.

When he was a freshman at Western Carolina University, he hitched a ride with a stranger who turned out to be a lousy driver. The car went over an embankment. Helms wound up on top of the car, shattered bones embedded in his neck.

After years of therapy—years when it seemed he'd never walk again—he summoned up strength the rest of us can only imagine and did walk. Again, in stepped Fate and the rest. On the day his beautiful Cory, the girl he loved and wanted to marry, showed her immaturity (her mother dominated her life), Helms fell from some steps. His head crashed on the bumper of his car.

Book Recalls Suffering

The poignant scene is described vividly in Helms' book, *Against All Odds* (Thomas Crowell, New York, publishers, $9.95), in which the author recalls the suffering of waking up to realize that the all-too-familiar pain is not a case of deja vu.

"Oh God!" he cries. "No, no, not again!"

But it was "again" that Helms had to face the prospect of a future as a bedridden paralytic. All the repairs to his broken body had to be done over. All the agonizing therapy, all the uncertainty of his recovery, had to be relived.

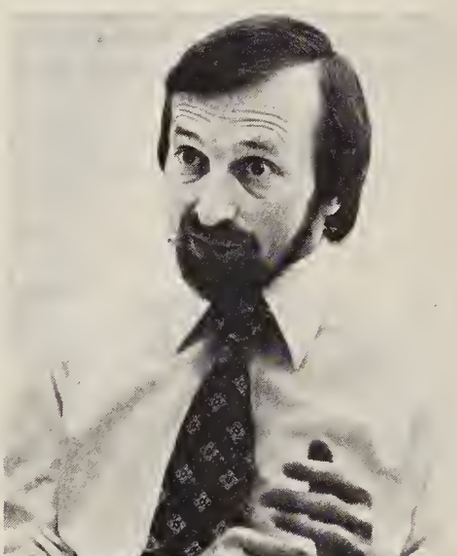
Once, for most people, is enough. But twice? How did this handsome, lean young man, hungry for the good life ("I set my goals early—I knew the quality of life I wanted") face up to his cruel condition?

"I can give my mother a lot of credit," the Concord native said. "She's remarkable. She believed in her children. This was never overtly expressed—but we never would do anything to lose that woman's faith. She didn't fight our battles. We weren't overachievers. We went as far as we could go."

The therapy left him needing a cane to walk. His gait is slow, his thin bearded face bears traces of a lot of suffering.

Helms With State Agency

His brother is a doctor of medicine, his sister earned a Ph.D., Helms, who has a degree in business administration, was a personnel consultant with the State Personnel Department in Raleigh until recently. He's now working on a novel full-time.



But he went through the jungle of the job market, battered at every turn.

"No—it hasn't changed much," he said of that jungle. "I went job hunting in Charlotte ten years ago. Nothing. Now there's a handicapped young man in The State Personnel Department who went went through the same thing I did. In Charlotte, too. Nothing."

The ultimate irony in his job search was this: years before, he swore he'd never, never work in Concord's mills. After his futile jo hunt in Charlotte, he swallowe his pride and sought work at Concord mill. The answer: NO vacancies.

Helms' book is not an indictmer of attitudes of an ignorant societ toward the disabled, he says.

"I've been considered les intelligent because of my handicap People tend to expect me to settle fo less. I'm supposed to settle for a les attractive woman, for instance. Bu I'm not going to make a lifetim commitment to someone unattrac ive to me!"

An Indictment of Employers

But it is an indictment o prejudiced employers who sa "I've had bad experiences wit 'you people' (Meaning th handicapped)," or "I don't thin you're physically capable o holding down the job."

The biggest mistake othe people make, in Helms' view, is t lump all handicapped peopl together as a minority with man things in common. "But there nobody on earth," said Helms "who walks exactly as I do." Hi point: His is an individual wh happens to have a handicapp.

His book is earthy, laced witl wry humor and well-drawn characters like his brother, his bes friend, his doctors, his girl friend

Hundreds of the book's readers also handicapped, have alread written to Helms, saying, "If yo didn't give up, I won't give up."

Tom Helms was a young ma who had everything going for him who wanted so much.

He has paid a price, but he ha never quit striving for that qualit of life he'd sought before Fate—o the breaks—intervened in hi plans.

His book itself is ample evidenc that he has prevailed "Against Al Odds."

Bette Elliot
Bill Kiser News Servic

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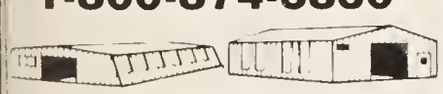
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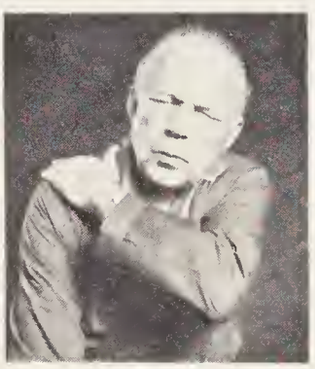
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Boll Weevil Smote Mighty King Cotton



Photos by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Text by Miriam Manning, a Raleigh free-lance writer.

Ever since Christopher Columbus took cotton back to Spain from the New World as proof he had made it to India, cotton has had its ups and downs.

It wasn't until 1556 that cotton was planted as a crop on the American mainland, when the Spaniards brought it to Florida. And it was quite awhile longer before cotton was to become a commercial crop.

The advent of Hargreave's spinning jenny and Crompton's spinning mule in England in the 1760s made cotton a more feasible cash crop.

But cotton had opponents. The English wool interests circulated propaganda alleging that wearing cotton fiber was immoral because its delicate quality "promotes erotic feelings in chaste women."

1780s See Commercial Cotton

Nevertheless, cotton became in enough demand in the 1780s to see United States farmers planting their first commercial crops.

However, American farmers soon became discouraged. As one Georgia grower put it, "The cost of its productivity and in the main the toilsomeness of separating kernel from wool (lint) render its capacity for profit beyond the means of myself and most goodly gentlemen of this area."

Then, as every schoolchild knows, Eli Whitney invented his cotton gin in 1793 and within seven years U.S. cotton production jumped from 2,500 bales per year to 100,000. The figure was soon to jump into the millions.

The future of cotton in America could not have looked better.

Enter the boll weevil (*Anthonomous Grandis* to zoologists; #*&*#@*# to farmers.)

In 1892, the boll weevil came from south of the border and was delighted to find almost no natural predators in this country.

The main enemy to the weev turned out to be the cotton farme but even he was a little threat.

Small boys were sent out wit buckets and mops to bathe th cotton plants in poisone molasses. Ashes, lime, londo purple, paris green, arsenic, coa oil and snuff were all tried and a failed.

Whiskey As Insecticide?

Some farmers even shared the whiskey in hopes of drowning th weevils and thus their sorrow Prayer meetings were held; som felt they were being visited b super-natural plagues.

In desperation, farmers trie fire, but that, too, failed.

Early insecticides wer developed which could kill th boll weevil. But they also kille many beneficials—those bad-bug eating bugs, such as lady beetle green lacewings, damsel bugs, ar lions and a host of others.

In the greater scheme of thing poison to the weevil was no necessarily the best thing for th farm—not to mention the rest o the environment.

The late 1940s saw th development of the chrlorinate hy-drobarbon insecticides; th 1950s saw the development o resistance to those poisons in th boll weevil. Then came th organophosphates. And entomo logist fear that weevils ar developing resistance to tha killer.

Insect Control Costly

Tar Heel cotton farmers have bee spending $50 to $60 per acre fo insect control—and the effort i getting more expensive and difficul each year. U.S. cotton farmer spend $90 to $100 million yearly fo pesticides and still report $25 million in crop losses—all due to th boll weevil.

In fact, since its immigration to the U.S., the boll weevil has destroyed an estimated 85 million bales of cotton—enough to provide 764 shirts for each American male 14 or over.

Why bother with cotton, then, one might ask. The answer brings back the word on the tip of all tongues—ENERGY. Cotton derives most of its production energy from the sun. It is a renewable resource. Cotton's strongest competitors, the synthetics, are based on petroleum and require huge quantities of petrochemical feedstocks. Cotton, particularly with its new perma-press qualities, is in high public demand.

Also cottonseed should not be overlooked. More than 1.3 billion pounds of cotton seed oil are produced annually and consumed in the form of margarine, shortening, cooking oil and salad dressing. In addition, cottonseed, a valuable source of protein, could conceivably play a major role in the world nutrution. Four billion pounds of cottonseed meal is already being used each year to feed livestock and poultry.

Cotton Important To Economy

As the fourth leading crop in the U.S., cotton is an important part of the economy. In 1976-77, cotton provided farmers with $3.8 billion of revenue. More than 4 million people live on incomes earned from cotton, while 15 million more depend on cotton-related incomes.

Cotton is important, then. So what can be done with the infernal, eternal boll weevil? Eradication would be ideal. But is that possible? Can a creature be wiped out that has the potential to multiply from one single egg-laying female to several million offspring in one summer season?

The answer may soon be Yes—if scientists are successful with a three-year weevil eradication experiment now under way in Northeastern North Carolina. *(See story at right.□)*

Tests May Soon End Critter's Lengthy Reign

Scientists with the U.S. Department of Agriculture are achieving some success in an experimental project that's seeking a dependable method of eradicating the boll weevil.

The little creature, which the 1975 North Carolina General Assembly declared "a public nuisance, a pest and a menace to the cotton industry," is the target of a four-pronged attack being mounted as part of a three-year program in the northeastern corner of the state.

A Cooperative Effort

The program, known as the Boll Weevil Eradication Trial, was set in motion by the legislature as a cooperative federal-state-grower effort to be centered primarily in Halifax, Edgecombe and Northampton counties.

Federal and state governments each cover 25 percent of the project's cost, with the grower chipping in the other 50 percent.

It is being coordinated by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The state's northeastern cottongrowing area (north and east of Fayetteville and a small portion of Virginia) was chosen for the experiment because it is isolated on one end of the Cotton Belt, according to Dr. Milton Ganyard, program manager.

(Continued on Page 16)







TOP - A pheromone trap in place in a cotton field. Once the weevils enter the trap, they can't escape. CENTER - Randy Miller, a cotton scout in the Boll Weevil Eradication Trial program, examines leaves in Chowan County in search of weevils. BOTTOM - Dr. Milton Ganyard, manager of the program, examines a cotton boll for weevil damage.

Boll Weevil's Reign May End

The project, now in its second year, calls for using four methods of attacking the weevil: chemical treatments, pheromone traps, release of sterile weevils and cultural practices, Dr. Ganyard said.

'Growth Regulator' Used

The chemical being used this summer is a "new era" substance known as dimilin, he added. It's an "insect growth regulator," which means that it kills not by toxicity, but by arresting development of the egg. So it simply keeps the egg from ever producing a live weevil.

Dimilin is a very selective chemical not designed to kill any other population, and is extremely low in toxicity to higher organisms.

Phase Two of the experiment is pheromone traps, Dr. Ganyard said. Pheromone, coined from the Greek meaning "carrier of excitation" is the sex attractant given off by the male weevil.

to a cigarette filter which is placed in a rather strange trap composed of a chartreuse milkshake cup with a wire screen cone paper-clipped to the top.

These traps are highly visible alongside the road on the edge of cotton fields. The bright yellow-green was not chosen to attract motorists, nor at the whim of its designer: the color actually enhances the weevils' ability to hone in.

These contraptions, manufactured at a USDA lab in Whiteville, operate on the order of "roach motels"—once the critters are in, they're trapped. The traps are mainly useful for counting purposes, however, since the other parts of the program are responsible for population control.

Phase Three involes the release of sterile weevils—cropdusting with bugs, spreading 100 steriles to each native, according to Dr. Ganyard.

If the boll weevil hadn't already proven himself hearty, this process should do the trick. They're dropped several hundred feet to land on the hard, hot ground unharmed.

And, the weevils must experience an extreme temperature change because they're kept at a constant 40 degrees prior to release so they won't cling to one another into a huge ball.

Doesn't this population control procedure increase the crop damage in the trial area?

Only slightly, Dr. Ganyard said, because the sterile bugs leave only small feeding punctures in the plants, while the wild weevils cause the most damage when they deposit their eggs.

Dr. Ganyard said Phase Four of the experiment consists of maintenance once the first three steps have been completed. This is called cultural practices.

Results Are Encouraging

At the end of the project's first year, all participants were quite pleased with the results so far.

Agriculture Commission Jim Graham said he was "proud that cotton producers in the trial area have broken all records for yields." He pointed out that the goal was two weevils per acre but field inspections "have shown only about one weevil in every 10 acres."

Dr. Ganyard is especially optimistic about the results of this year's experiments.

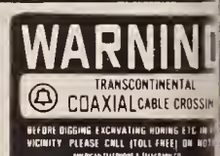
"We have caught only one weevil in the core area," he said. "We're not quite ready to jump up and down yet because we had a cool spring, and the weevils might be coming out later than usual. But we still expect a good year for the project."□



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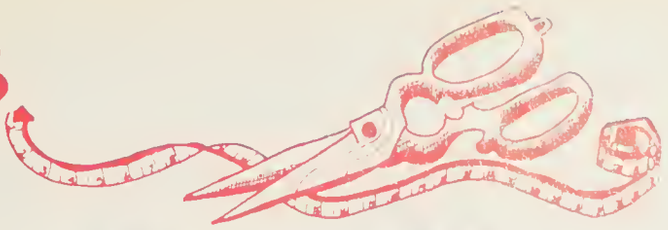

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Country Kitchen



CRAB AU GRATIN

When the hot summertime ves in full force, many ple's thoughts turn to food, especially during ations at the beach. But you 't have to go out of your se to enjoy delicious seafood es. This crabmeat recipe Mrs. Warrington, a coastal dent herself, offers another to enjoy delicacies from the "I am sure it will be a ner," says Mrs. Warrington.

you would like to share a pe with this column, send : COUNTRY KITCHEN, Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 1. We pay $5 for published pes.

Country Kitchen Recipe
Submitted by Mrs. Dora Moore Warrington of New Bern

CRAB AU GRATIN

1 lb. crabmeat
3 T. butter
3 T. flour
¼ tsp. paprika
½ tsp. salt
⅛ tsp. pepper
1½ c. thin cream
1 c. cheddar cheese grated
1 T. Worcestershire sauce
1/3 c. bread crumbs

Remove any remaining shell from crabmeat. Melt butter in skillet and stir in flour, paprika, salt and pepper. Continue to stir until smooth. Gradually add cream and cook slowly until thickened. Add cheese, Worcestershire sauce, and stir until cheese is melted. Add crabmeat. Place mixture in a greased baking dish or individual bake and serve dishes and cover with crumbs. Bake at 400 degrees for approx. 20 minutes. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Carolina Homemaker

The Versatile Confectioners' Custard

Reprinted with permission from DI News, *monthly publication of Dairymen, Inc., Louisville, Ky.*

This month, we're going to take a look at some fabulous desserts for those occasions when you want to put your best foot forward. We think they'll rate high on your "interest" list, even though you may use them only for VIP purposes. But who knows, you may wonder why you haven't made them sooner when you find out how really easy they are to put together.

This delightful recipe is called "Confectioners' Custard." It's really versatile because you can use it for eclairs, tarts, cream puffs or parfait. With a very slight change, you might even want to use it for filling a Fresh Fruit Flan, a very special kind of dessert that's sure to win a lot of applause for you.

CONFECTIONERS' CUSTARD

- **3/4 cup sugar**
- **1/3 cup all-purpose flour**
- **1/4 teaspoon salt**
- **2 cups Flav-O-Rich milk**
- **3 egg yolks, slightly beaten**
- **3 tablespoons Flav-O-Rich butter**
- **1 teaspoon vanilla**

Combine sugar, flour and salt; gradually stir in mi
Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring constant
Boil and stir 2 additional minutes. Blend a sm
amount of hot mixture into egg yolks; return all
pan. Cook 1 minute. (Do not boil). Remove from he
add butter and vanilla. Cover and chill. Yield: abo
2 1/2 cups.

BUTTERSCOTCH CUSTARD:
Substitute 3/4 cup firmly packed light bro
sugar for granulated sugar. Yield: about 2 1/2 cu

CHOCOLATE ORANGE CUSTARD:
Add 2 squares (2 oz.) unsweetened chocola
cut up, with milk. Add 1 tablespoon grated oran
peel and 1/2 teaspoon orange extract with vanil
Yield: about 2 1/2 cups.

FLAN CUSTARD:
Increase flour to 1/2 cup. Yield: about 2 1/2 cu





EP ONE

make the custard, combine three-fourths cup of gar, one-third cup of flour and one-fourth tea- on of salt in a saucepan. Gradually stir in two s of milk. Bring this mixture to a boil over dium heat. Boil and stir for two minutes to give flour a chance to cook.



STEP TWO

Blend a small amount of the boiled mixture with three slightly beaten egg yolks. Return all to the pan. It's important to cook this for one minute, but this time, don't let the mixture boil because egg mixtures should be cooked below boiling temperature. Now, take the pan off the heat and add three tablespoons of butter and one teaspoon of vanilla. That will give you two and one-half cups of custard which should be chilled.

RIETY
M ONE RECIPE

ere are the other "goodies" tioned in the introduction. The colate variety of custard going the eclairs is made by adding ounces of unsweetened choco- squares at the very same time add the milk. There is no to melt it in advance be- e you'll be cooking the custard the chocolate melts easily. can flavor this with orange too, if you like. Or, you could he vanilla custard if you pre- For the Butterscotch Parfaits, the same custard, but change granulated sugar to brown r. When the custard has cool- st layer it with sliced banana coconut into tall parfait glas- and garnish with whipped n and a maraschino cherry.



FRESH FRUIT FLAN

This is the Fresh Fruit Flan mentioned in the introduction, which could be made with a slight variation in the recipe. That means using just a little more flour in the filling — one-half cup instead of one-third. Why is this necessary? When you slice a large flan like this, the custard must hold its shape for an attractive serving. The fruit topping can be whatever looks good or is seasonal. The one pictured uses sliced strawberries, mandarin orange sections drained, and some blueberries. The glaze is easy: just melt one-third cup of red currant jelly in a saucepan, cool it and spread on the fruit.



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Books

By Jean McCamy

The Lost Treasure of Peep Cove by Leona T. Hayes. Moun Heritage Day Series, West Carolina University Moun Heritage Center. 68 pages. $3.

I'll have to admit that I sta reading this small volume with of a ho-hum-someone-kno the-mountain-lingo attitude. seemed, at first, to be little m than show and tell, but it di take long to get completely cau up in Angy Water's adventure

A Simple Story

It is a simple story, witl beginning, a middle and an Reading it is a fine way to spen evening.

Angy is an orphan, someti called white trash by unk classmates, but also recognize smart and proud by older, w acquaintances.

Smarting from an overhe remark, Angy decides to school and, with her dog, Trou she climbs to Peep-Eye C There, she runs into sev problems, but it all turns out fin the end.

There is not date given in Le T. Hayes' story, but flour s dresses, school wagons a horseback errands definitely se in the past.

In addition to being a charm story, this book is a treasure mountain lore.

Proceeds Support Collectio

Proceeds from the sale of book wil go to the Developm Foundation of Western Caro University, Inc., a non-pr organization that provides priv support to the institution.

The funds will support collection of prized mount artifacts which were acquired the late Hubert Hayes of Ashev and given to the center by his w Leona.

Jean McCamy of Wake Forest is a p and participant in the Poetry in the Schc Program.

'outh Tour 1979

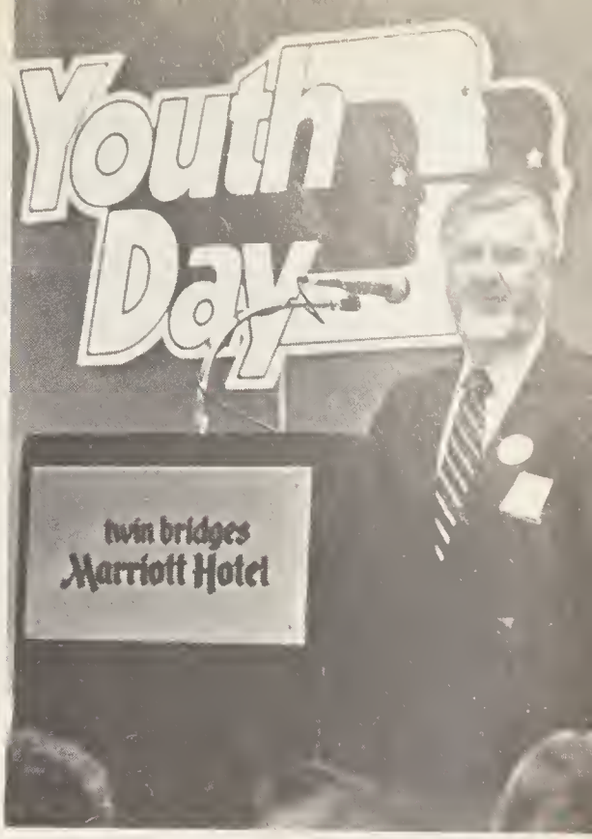
A Week to Remember

'The most memorable event of
' life" was the way one teen
scribed it when the 35 North
rolina high school students
urned from the Rural Electric
uth Tour last month. And for all
teens who made the trip, it
y have been just that.
ponsored by the North
rolina Association of Electric
operatives, the week included
only regular sight-seeing stops,
also special appointments with
r congressmen, the opportunity
ear a noted scientist discuss
lear power and the chance to
e lasting friendships with teens
n other parts of the state, as well as from across the country.

Other highlights of the week included a boat ride down the Potomac (complete with disco music), two afternoons at the Smithsonian, a visit with Chip Carter at the White House, a dinner and dance for all 900 Youth Tourist and an evening at the Kennedy Center.

The 35 North Carolinians, who were all chosen by their co-ops to attend, joined over 900 other Youth Tourists in Washington.

The scene at trip's end of sad goodbyes, complete with tears, was evidence enough of the 1979 Youth Tour's success.



Eminent nuclear scientist Dr. Ralph Lapp spoke at the Youth Day Program.

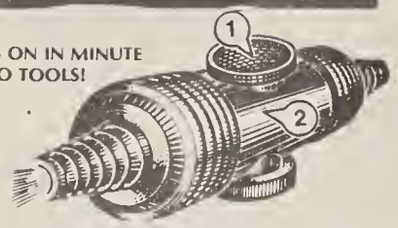


Chip Carter, son of President Jimmy Carter, took his father's place for the White House visit.



Youth Tourists listen attentively to Dr. Lapp.

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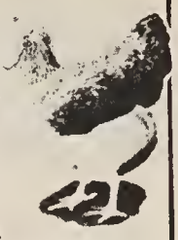
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Poet's Corner

The poems below are by Pa Hodges of Rt. 5, Mt. Airy, a Sur County native who teache creative writing at Surr Community College. The Duk University graduate has writte two books of poetry and edits literary quarterly, "Northwoo Journal."

THE MOON GOING DOWN

The bright half moon,
having waxed it way across the sky
hangs briefly above the horizon.

I shut and open my eyes.
The night is much darker now.

SURPRISE VISIT

A flock of starlings
form a speckled ball
in the sky above the dead grass.

They flow into other startling shape
they veer off and dive into the ba
trees,
settling thickly and constant
chattering.

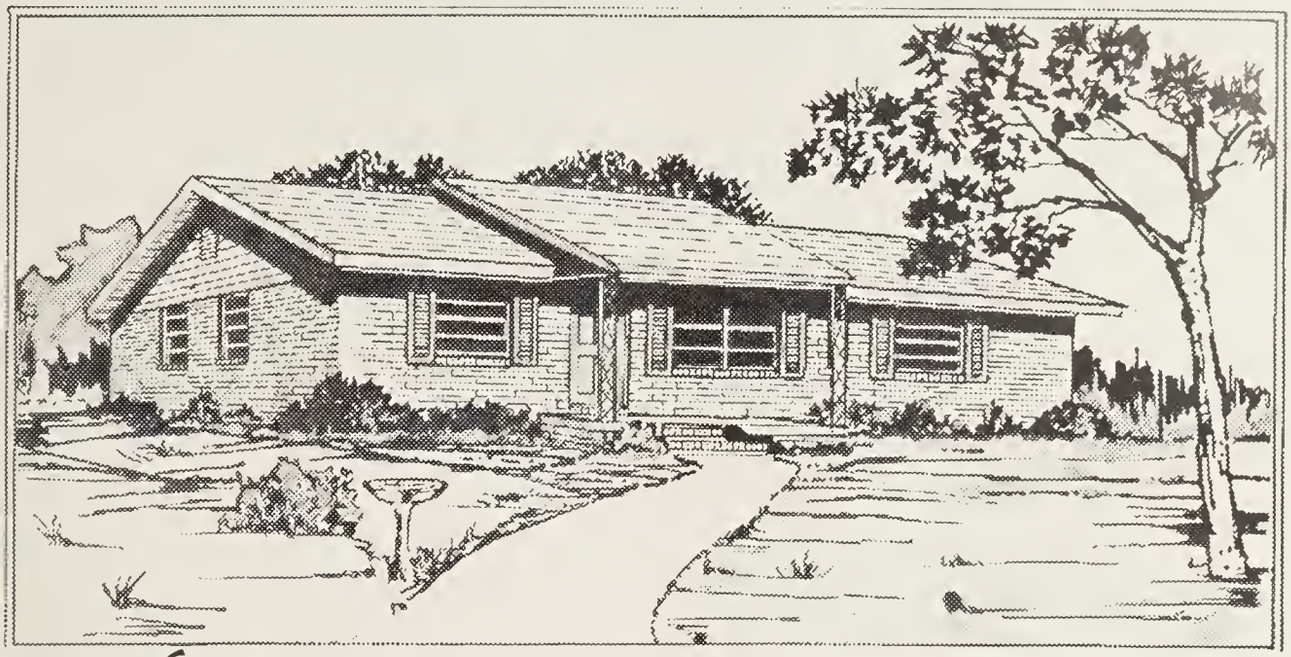
When they become still and silent,
with a fluttering whoosh
they reclaim the sky.

A MAGICAN MEADOW IN SUMMI

The field in front of me
is full of wildflowers
that dance and sigh in the breeze,
waving to each other,
whispering tales of ancient seed.

The entire meadow
is awash with swaying colors
that merge and separate
at whims the eye is not used to.

A gentle constant wind
murmurs to all its cheerful neighbo
and comforts them in their season.



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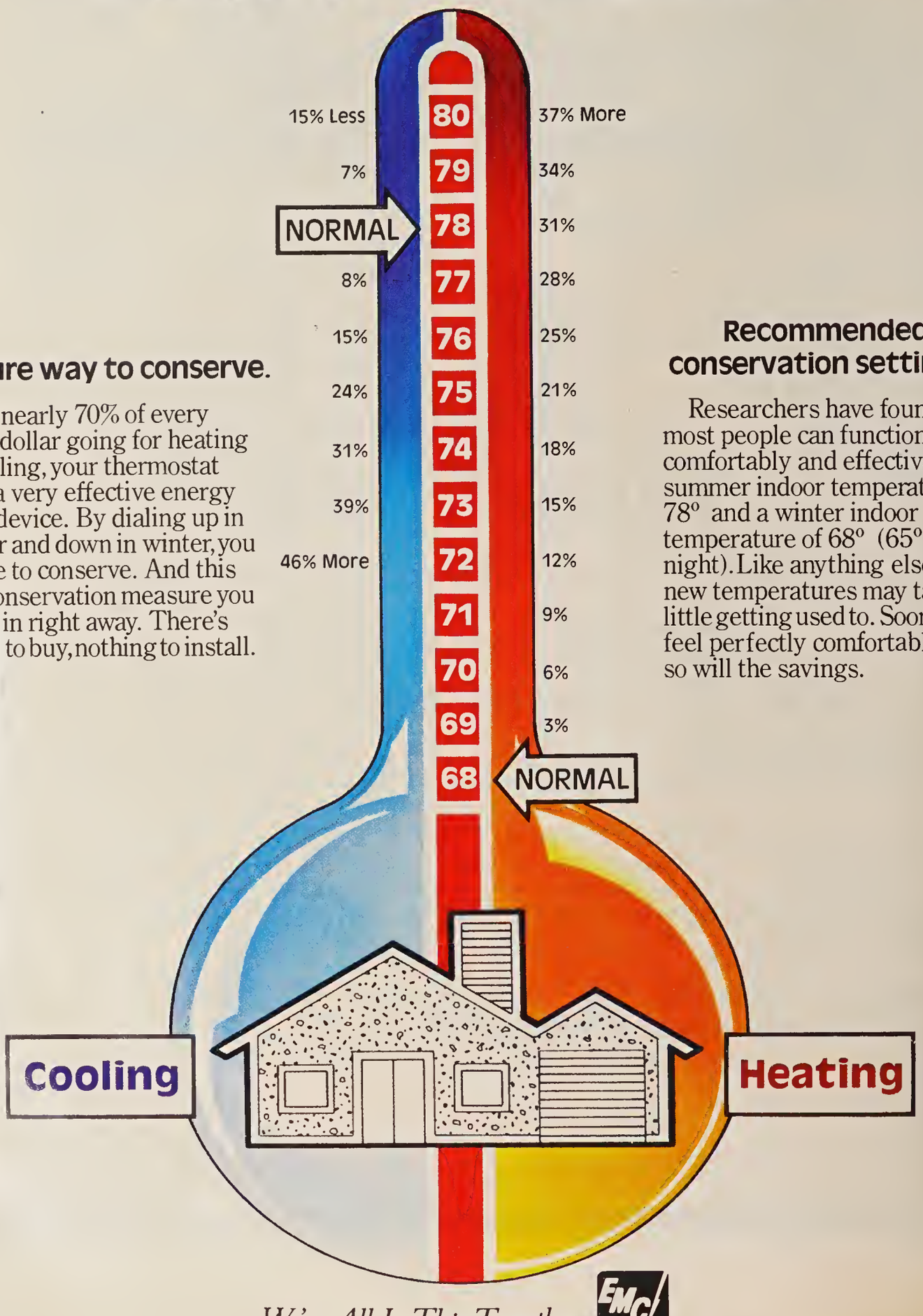
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